REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Examiner's Action mailed September 3, 2004, with a shortened statutory period of three months set to expire December 3, 2004. Claims 1-30 are currently pending. With this amendment, claims 1, 5, 13, 17, 22, and 26-27 have been amended, and claims 10-12 and 16 have been canceled.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 13, and 22 to describe probing one of a plurality of ports that is included within the physical element, and in response to determining that the physical element is a particular type of physical element, partitioning the physical element to provide a plurality of virtual representations of the physical element. Each one of the plurality of virtual representations has a unique access control level. The physical element is partitioned by assigning a different local identifier to each one of the ports that is included within the physical element which results in a configuration change of the physical element. Examples of support for the amendments to the claims can be found in the specification on page 3, lines 9-13, page 21, lines 12-14, page 26, lines 15-25, and page 30, line 30, through page 31, line 15.

Applicants have amended claims 5, 17, and 26 to describe the physical element being one of a switch, a target channel adapter, and a host channel adapter. One example of support for this amendment can be found in the specification on page 3, lines 9-13.

The Examiner objected to claim 16 stating that it is a duplicate of claim 15. Claim 16 has been canceled. Therefore, Applicants believe this objection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner objected to claim 27 stating that it included a typographical error. Applicants have amended claim 27 to correct the typographical error. Therefore, Applicants believe this objection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 8-13, 17, and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,694,361 issued to *Shah*. This rejection, as it might be applied to the claims as amended, is respectfully traversed.

Shah teaches assigning LIDs to the ports of a device such as a switch. Merely assigning a LID to each port does not teach the features of Applicants' claims.

Shah does not teach in response to determining that the physical element is a particular type of physical element, partitioning the physical element to provide a plurality of virtual representations of the physical element. *Shah* does not teach providing virtual representations of the switch.

Shah does not teach each one of the virtual representations of the physical element having a unique access control level. *Shah* does not teach each of the ports of its switch having a unique access control level.

Shah does not teach the physical element being partitioned by assigning a different local identifier to each one of the ports that is included within the physical element. *Shah* teaches assigning a LID to the ports of the switch. However, merely teaching assigning a LID to the ports of a switch does not teach the physical element being partitioned.

Because *Shah* does not teach partitioning a physical element, providing a plurality of virtual representations, or each virtual representation of the physical element having a unique access control level, *Shah* does not anticipate Applicants' claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 2-4, 6-7, 14-16, 18-19, and 23-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shah* in view of U.S. Patent 6,704,812 issued to *Bakke*. This rejection, as it might be applied to the claims as amended, is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 describes selecting the configuration including a static selection and a dynamic selection in combination with partitioning a physical element, providing a plurality of virtual representations, and each virtual representation of the physical element having a unique access control level. The combination of *Shah* and *Bakke* does not describe, teach, or suggest the combination of selecting the configuration including a static selection and a dynamic selection, partitioning a physical element, providing a plurality of virtual representations, and each virtual representation of the physical element having a unique access control level.

Claim 3 describes modifying the configuration in response to a static selection through at least one of a fabric initialization and a reboot of a node. The combination of *Shah* and *Bakke* does not describe, teach, or suggest the combination of modifying the configuration in response to a static selection through at least one of a fabric initialization

and a reboot of a node, partitioning a physical element, providing a plurality of virtual representations, and each virtual representation of the physical element having a unique access control level.

Claim 4 describes modifying the configuration in response to a dynamic selection through a reboot of a node. The combination of *Shah* and *Bakke* does not describe, teach, or suggest the combination of modifying the configuration in response to a dynamic selection through a reboot of a node, partitioning a physical element, providing a plurality of virtual representations, and each virtual representation of the physical element having a unique access control level.

Claim 6 describes in response to a host channel adapter and a host node becoming operational, reporting the host channel adapter and host processor node as they become operational in combination with partitioning a physical element, providing a plurality of virtual representations, and each virtual representation of the physical element having a unique access control level. The combination of *Shah* and *Bakke* does not describe, teach, or suggest the combination of in response to a host channel adapter and a host node becoming operational, reporting the host channel adapter and host processor node as they become operational, partitioning a physical element, providing a plurality of virtual representations, and each virtual representation of the physical element having a unique access control level.

Claim 7 describes in response to removing a host channel adapter and a host node from operation, reporting the removal in combination with partitioning a physical element, providing a plurality of virtual representations, and each virtual representation of the physical element having a unique access control level. The combination of *Shah* and *Bakke* does not describe, teach, or suggest the combination of in response to removing a host channel adapter and a host node from operation, reporting the removal, partitioning a physical element, providing a plurality of virtual representations, and each virtual representation of the physical element having a unique access control level.

Claim 8 describes connecting one or more operating system images to at least one host channel adapter in combination with partitioning a physical element, providing a plurality of virtual representations, and each virtual representation of the physical element having a unique access control level. The combination of *Shah* and *Bakke* does not

describe, teach, or suggest the combination of connecting one or more operating system images to at least one host channel adapter, partitioning a physical element, providing a plurality of virtual representations, and each virtual representation of the physical element having a unique access control level.
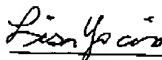
Because the remaining claims are similar in scope to those discussed above, the comments made above are also applicable to the remaining claims.

Applicants believe the claims are in a patentable form over the prior art. The prior art does not describe, teach, or suggest the combination of probing one of a plurality of ports that is included within the physical element, in response to determining that the physical element is a particular type of physical element, partitioning the physical element to provide a plurality of virtual representations of the physical element, where each one of the plurality of virtual representations has a unique access control level, and the physical element is partitioned by assigning a different local identifier to each one of the ports that is included within the physical element which results in a configuration change of the physical element.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: _12/3/04_

Respectfully submitted,

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